

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:325

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA A H1N1

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) The criteria for declaration of a disease as an epidemic or a pandemic alongwith the diseases declared as an epidemic or a pandemic during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) Whether the Government has taken note of the recent cases of pandemic influenza AH1N1 and deaths therefrom in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to assist the State Governments so as to mitigate the pandemic and issued directives in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 325 FOR 27th APRIL, 2012

(a) An epidemic is a sudden increase in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in the population of a specified area within the country.

A pandemic is declared when an epidemic occurs over a very wide area, usually affecting a large proportion of population, across countries. During the last three years, Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 is the only disease that has been declared as a Pandemic by World Health Organization.

(b)&(c) Government has taken note of the recent cases of illness and deaths caused by Pandemic Influenza A H IN 1 virus. Details of reported cases and deaths are given at Annexure.

(d)&(e): Yes.

The action plan, guidelines and print and visual media materials created in the wake of the pandemic in 2009 are available with the State Government. 45 laboratories (26 in Government Sector and 19 in Private sector) have capability to test samples for H1N1. Adequate stock of Oseltamivir, the antiviral drug, is available. An advisory has been sent to all States and UTs to gear up the State machinery for screening and isolation facilities including critical care. States / UTs have also been advised to follow guidelines on triage, categorization and testing of patients.